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The St. James's Evening Post,

Dated *April 21, 1757*;

Containing a Paragraph of a Statute, now in full Force, against engrossing and accumulating Farms, &c.

 E frequently see PROPOSALS for making *new* Laws to prevent the Scarcity and Dearthness of Corn; and it is certainly great Pity, that the Arts and subtle Contrivances so notoriously used to enhance the Price of it, are not more thoroughly considered, and more effectual Care taken in an Affair of so much Consequence to the Public.

BUT as multiplying Statutes is reckoned a Grievance in this Nation, would it not be necessary to enquire, *first*, Whether there are not Laws already in being, which are levell'd against the present Complaints, and would greatly contribute towards the Removal of them, *if put into Execution*—I mean only *such as may be* with as little Trouble as possible.

IT is now a Practice, (and more in Fashion, I believe, than ever) for rich Farmers to engross and accumulate all the Lands they well can in their own Parishes, and those around them; so that in some Places, there are hardly People enough to discharge (as should be) the very Parish-Offices, and *infinite Mischiefs* are well known to arise from this growing Evil: How many of their full Granaries, even at this Time remain lock'd up, and an *higher* Price of Corn *still* waited for!

AND yet how carefully are all Abuses of this Kind guarded against, and punished by the 25th of *Hen. VIII. c. 13.* I will give you the very Words of the Act, as I find them in the 14th Section:

IT is also further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that no Manner of Person shall receive, or take in farm for Term of Life, Years, or at will, by Indenture, Copy of Court-Roll or otherwise, any more Houses, and Tenements of Husbandry, whereunto any Lands are belonging, in Town, Village, Hamlet, or Tithing within this Realm, above the Number of Two such Holds, or Tenements. And that no Manner of Person shall have or occupy any such Holds, so newly taken to the Number of Two, as is before expressed, except He, or They be dwelling within the same Parishes, where such Holds be, upon Pain of Forfeiture for every week, that He, or They shall have, occupy, or take any Profits of such Holds contrary to this Act, Three Shillings and Four-Pence.

——To be easily recovered by any hearty Well-wisher to the public Good.

THIS Statute is in full Force-----and observe it ye Engrossers and Monopolizers of Farms.

H E A R this, O ye that swallow up the Needy, even to make the Poor of the Land to fail, saying, When will the new Moon be gone that we may sell Corn, and the Sabbath that we may set forth Wheat, making the Ephah small, and the Shekel great, and falsifying the Balances by Deceit? That we may buy the Poor for Silver, and the Needy for a Pair of Shoes, yea, and sell the Refuse of the Wheat.

S H A L L not the Land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein.